

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00

SIL-01 LAB-04 SCS-03 SCA-01 OES-03 MC-02 ACDA-05 /115 W

----- 063915

R 050815Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5034

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CU, MX, VE, SW

SUBJECT: PALME VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA

1. ON JULY 3 I CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL SVERKER
ASTROM TO SEEK HIS IMPRESSIONS ON THE RECENTLY COMPLETED
TRIP OF PRIME MINISTER PALME TO MEXICO CITY, CARACAS
AND HAVANA. ASTROM, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION,
TOLD ME THAT HE DID THE DRAFTING OF THE COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT THE END OF EACH VISIT, AND THAT HE ASSUMED
FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR TENOR. HE ADDED THAT
ALL THREE WERE THE RESULT OF LONG, ARDUOUS NEGOTIATIONS,
BUT THE END PRODUCTS REFLECT LONG-STANDING SWEDISH
POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT THE CUBANS WANTED TO INSERT
LANGUAGE REGARDING THE BLOCKADE WHICH WAS INVIDIOUS TO
THE U.S. ASTROM, HOWEVER, REJECTED THIS DEMAND, SAYING
THAT SWEDEN DID NOT GO IN FOR COMMUNIQUE IN THE FIRST
PLACE, BUT IF COMMUNIQUE COULD NOT BE AVOIDED, SWEDEN
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WISHED TO CONFINE THEM TO BILATERAL MATTERS. ONLY ALLUSION

IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO THIS TOPIC, SAID ASTROM, WAS THAT SWEDEN LOOKING FORWARD TO EARLY TERMINATION OF THE BLOCKADE.

ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT OF THE US MAY HAVE CONCEIVABLY ARISEN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PALME AND CASTRO, IT DID NOT COME UP IN THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS. MEXICAN AND VENEZUELAN COMMUNIQUE, BUT NOT THE CUBAN ONE, MADE MENTION OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES; BUT ASTROM SAID, SWEDES RESISTED ANY REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.

2. ASTROM COMMENTED THAT CUBAN NEWSPAPERS HAD ALERTED THE POPULATION TO PALME'S VISIT AND MADE IT PLAIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED PEOPLE TO GIVE HIM AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION. FACTORIES IN HAVANA WERE CLOSED ON THE DAY OF PALME'S ARRIVAL; TV AND RADIO CREWS STAYED ON THE JOB. ASTROM SAID THAT THE SWEDISH DELEGATION WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH CASTRO'S SIMPLICITY AND CHARM. WHEN CASTRO ACKNOWLEDGED SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO CUBA, HE HAD THE FACTS AND FIGURES READILY AT HAND. IN PRIVATE, AS WELL AS IN PUBLIC, CASTRO WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE OPEC NATIONS WHOSE OIL POLICIES, HE CHARGED, WERE PRIMARILY HURTING THE POOR NATIONS AND NOT THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD.

3. THROUGHOUT ITS TRAVELS IN LATIN AMERICA, THE SWEDISH DELEGATION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A SMALL TRADE MISSION, AND PALME USED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH SWEDISH PRODUCTS AND SALES. THE MISSION INCLUDED A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AILING ST. ERIK'S SHIPYARD. THE POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED OF SELLING ONE OR TWO SWEDISH TANKERS TO CUBA.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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